

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1859.

RETIRED IN THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.
There are few who will dispute the general proposition that the ordinary expenditures of the government ought to be brought within fifty millions of dollars. We do not believe that there are any persons who subscribe to this proposition more cordially than the President and his cabinet; and we are confident in the conviction that the administration will make a larger reduction in the amount of the ordinary expenditures than has been made by any administration since the foundation of the government. It has as yet got through but one complete fiscal year, that of 1857-8. The appropriations for that year were made by the Congress which expired before its accession to the government; and the execution of the orders of that Congress were imperative upon and not optional with it. As it was, it expended less than Congress appropriated for the year in question, by sixteen millions of dollars.

There were extraordinary circumstances, too, which imposed a heavier charge upon the administration during that year than usual. The Utah expedition and wars with some seven or eight tribes of Indians on opposite frontiers of the country had to be carried on at the same time that the Secretary of War was attacked in the rear by Congressmen, the lobby, and the contract brokers here in Washington, in a manner more deadly than if it had been by many tribes of savages with their tomahawks and scalping knives. That was the year, too, in which the overland mail to the Pacific was first established at great cost under the orders of an expired Congress over which the administration could have had no sort of control.

The second fiscal year of the present administration's management of the government is not yet expired, and the third only estimated for; but, if no misfortune befalls the country, the result will show a curtailment of expenditures, which, when at the proper time it shall be proudly exhibited before the people, will confound and dismay the men who have raised a premature outcry at the alleged extravagance of the present administration. The President and his cabinet understand that all true and judicious economy must be instituted by themselves; and are acting accordingly. Reform cannot originate in Congress, even though the economists par excellence of that body were ever so much in earnest in their professions, and understood perfectly well the disease they were seeking to cure. Their whole action must be mere guess-work; they but mutilate when they would retrace. Their whole diagnosis for the disease of over-expenditure suggests nothing but amputation. Their system of practice reminds us of Mother's quack and his patient. The quack asks the patient—

"What do you do with this arm?"
Patient. "My arm!"
Quack. "We must cut off this arm immediately."
Patient. "The doctor! cut off my arm!"
Quack. "It is the new practice. Don't you prune trees to make them healthy; and don't you see that this arm hinders the other from thriving?"
Patient. "Aye. But I have occasion for my arm."
Quack. "Here's an eye, too, which must be instantly plucked out!"
Patient. "Pluck out my eye!"
Quack. "Don't you see it injures the other, and occasions mists? Have it taken away directly, you'll see the better with your left."

The quack is the only principle we can discover in the practice of Congress in cutting off the arms and plucking out the eyes of our public expenditure. The notion of wise retrenchment coming from Congress is preposterous. If efforts in that body were ever so sincerely made, there is an utter lack of information to guide and direct their efforts. We have shown that regulations sagely proposed by members the other day, for one branch of the business, had been in force twenty years! Those who are in earnest only mutilate the patient. Those who are not in earnest keep up a great noise all the time, but take good care to do no execution; they resemble the sporting gentleman in the story, who was not remarkable as a shot, and whose shooting season, for many years, was devoted with great constancy to one identical jack-snipe, which, after all, outlived him. Every day the sportsman had his shot, and every day the shot missed the mark. Still he persevered, and had always a good excuse to keep him in heart. The last time, the powder was damp, or the wind was the wrong way, or the sun in his eyes, but *this time* he is always sure of his game, and the bird is the same thing as on the spit, until away it lies at the report of the piece. The sportsman looks blank, and determines to pick his flint and try again. So the shooting goes on from day to day, from season to season, from season to season, and the game goes off. It will always be so with the bird Economy, so long as the only chance of bagging it is from those who persist in hunting it only in the Capitoline bog.

WANTED A REVENUE TARIFF.
Assuming, then, that the ordinary expenses of the government will be brought within fifty millions; whence is that annual amount and such extraordinary amounts as Congress shall each year appropriate, to say nothing of a sinking fund for the liquidation of the public debt, to be derived? Now, the democratic doctrine on this subject is, that the tariff shall be the source from which the funds to meet the expenditures of the government shall be drawn; and democratic have another doctrine, that the tariff shall be levied for revenue, and for revenue only. Tried by either of these tests, the tariff of 1857 is defective. It neither brings in revenue sufficient to meet the expenditures of the government, nor is it levied with exclusive reference to revenue. It does not produce revenue enough to meet the ordinary wants of the government, and is utterly deficient in respect to all outstanding debentures, and to all extraordinary demands which may fall upon the treasury. So it is not a revenue tariff in the democratic sense of providing for the expenditure of the government.

Nor is it a revenue tariff in respect to the mode in which it levies its duties upon the imports of the country. On the contrary, it was framed to defeat revenue, to deplete the treasury. It is an anti-revenue tariff. It lets in 28 per cent of importations free of duty; and in scheduling this free list it aims at the protection of manufacturers by including in that list articles used by the manufacturers, and not used

by the people at large. The manufacturers of New England sent to Washington a list of \$87,000 to be used for bribing the passage of this protective tariff through Congress. Why that bounty if the measure was not for their exclusive benefit? It is a "free-will" tariff. Why should foreign wool be let in free into the country to compete with or underbid the wool grown by American farmers, if it be not to protect the New England manufacturers of woollen fabrics against all competition?

We go with Mr. Cobb in demanding a modification of that tariff, so far, and so far only, as to cure it of its anti-revenue, its protective character; and to render it conformable to the democratic idea of a revenue tariff in the sense of providing for the expenditures of the government, and of levying its duties exclusively for revenue. We oppose the whole idea of protection; and we therefore oppose the "free-will" and like protective features of the tariff of 1857—bid for by an eighty-seven-thousand-dollar corruption fund. It was framed to defeat revenue and deplete the treasury; let it be remodelled until it produces maximum revenue and fills the treasury again.

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I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,
GEO. C. WHITING, Commissioner.
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Recent advices from Eastern Asia indicate that a proper trade is likely soon to spring up between the United States and the Amoor river. From information lately received at the Department of State, it appears that two citizens of the United States recently passed through St. Petersburg on their way to Hamburg and London from the Amoor river, where they had for two years been transacting business, and whence they had come direct by land through Siberia. They report having been received with great kindness by the authorities of that distant region, who had afforded them free transportation up the Amoor river in government vessels, the distance of three thousand *versts*—about two thousand miles. Merchandise had been carried by them, or their agent, even up to Irkutsk, the capital of Siberia. As a general rule, goods can only be imported duty free, by foreigners, up to the mouth of the Amoor. If carried by the river, it must be done by Russian alone, or if attempted by foreigners, duties will be levied. Foreigners are not allowed to travel or pass through Siberia in any direction, it being regarded as a province under strict military government, and held as a fortress would be. The exception made in the case of the two citizens of the United States, above alluded to, was owing, it is alleged, to the desire of the governor-general to be liberal to Americans. The only foreigner ever known to pass through that region before since Russia has held jurisdiction over it, is Mr. Collins, the commercial agent of the United States on the Amoor.

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RETIRED IN THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.
There are few who will dispute the general proposition that the ordinary expenditures of the government ought to be brought within fifty millions of dollars. We do not believe that there are any persons who subscribe to this proposition more cordially than the President and his cabinet; and we are confident in the conviction that the administration will make a larger reduction in the amount of the ordinary expenditures than has been made by any administration since the foundation of the government. It has as yet got through but one complete fiscal year, that of 1857-8. The appropriations for that year were made by the Congress which expired before its accession to the government; and the execution of the orders of that Congress were imperative upon and not optional with it. As it was, it expended less than Congress appropriated for the year in question, by sixteen millions of dollars.

There were extraordinary circumstances, too, which imposed a heavier charge upon the administration during that year than usual. The Utah expedition and wars with some seven or eight tribes of Indians on opposite frontiers of the country had to be carried on at the same time that the Secretary of War was attacked in the rear by Congressmen, the lobby, and the contract brokers here in Washington, in a manner more deadly than if it had been by many tribes of savages with their tomahawks and scalping knives. That was the year, too, in which the overland mail to the Pacific was first established at great cost under the orders of an expired Congress over which the administration could have had no sort of control.

The second fiscal year of the present administration's management of the government is not yet expired, and the third only estimated for; but, if no misfortune befalls the country, the result will show a curtailment of expenditures, which, when at the proper time it shall be proudly exhibited before the people, will confound and dismay the men who have raised a premature outcry at the alleged extravagance of the present administration. The President and his cabinet understand that all true and judicious economy must be instituted by themselves; and are acting accordingly. Reform cannot originate in Congress, even though the economists par excellence of that body were ever so much in earnest in their professions, and understood perfectly well the disease they were seeking to cure. Their whole action must be mere guess-work; they but mutilate when they would retrace. Their whole diagnosis for the disease of over-expenditure suggests nothing but amputation. Their system of practice reminds us of Mother's quack and his patient. The quack asks the patient—

"What do you do with this arm?"
Patient. "My arm!"
Quack. "We must cut off this arm immediately."
Patient. "The doctor! cut off my arm!"
Quack. "It is the new practice. Don't you prune trees to make them healthy; and don't you see that this arm hinders the other from thriving?"
Patient. "Aye. But I have occasion for my arm."
Quack. "Here's an eye, too, which must be instantly plucked out!"
Patient. "Pluck out my eye!"
Quack. "Don't you see it injures the other, and occasions mists? Have it taken away directly, you'll see the better with your left."

The quack is the only principle we can discover in the practice of Congress in cutting off the arms and plucking out the eyes of our public expenditure. The notion of wise retrenchment coming from Congress is preposterous. If efforts in that body were ever so sincerely made, there is an utter lack of information to guide and direct their efforts. We have shown that regulations sagely proposed by members the other day, for one branch of the business, had been in force twenty years! Those who are in earnest only mutilate the patient. Those who are not in earnest keep up a great noise all the time, but take good care to do no execution; they resemble the sporting gentleman in the story, who was not remarkable as a shot, and whose shooting season, for many years, was devoted with great constancy to one identical jack-snipe, which, after all, outlived him. Every day the sportsman had his shot, and every day the shot missed the mark. Still he persevered, and had always a good excuse to keep him in heart. The last time, the powder was damp, or the wind was the wrong way, or the sun in his eyes, but *this time* he is always sure of his game, and the bird is the same thing as on the spit, until away it lies at the report of the piece. The sportsman looks blank, and determines to pick his flint and try again. So the shooting goes on from day to day, from season to season, from season to season, and the game goes off. It will always be so with the bird Economy, so long as the only chance of bagging it is from those who persist in hunting it only in the Capitoline bog.

WANTED A REVENUE TARIFF.
Assuming, then, that the ordinary expenses of the government will be brought within fifty millions; whence is that annual amount and such extraordinary amounts as Congress shall each year appropriate, to say nothing of a sinking fund for the liquidation of the public debt, to be derived? Now, the democratic doctrine on this subject is, that the tariff shall be the source from which the funds to meet the expenditures of the government shall be drawn; and democratic have another doctrine, that the tariff shall be levied for revenue, and for revenue only. Tried by either of these tests, the tariff of 1857 is defective. It neither brings in revenue sufficient to meet the expenditures of the government, nor is it levied with exclusive reference to revenue. It does not produce revenue enough to meet the ordinary wants of the government, and is utterly